

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO AMEMBASSY RABAT

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9828

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1118

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, MO, SU

SUBJ: BACKGROUND ON NEW SUDANESE AMBASSADOR TO MOROCCO

REF: MOROCCO 2156

RASHID NUR AL-DIN WAS SECOND ECHELON SUPPORTER OF NIMEIRI AT TIME LATTER'S 1969 COUP. SOME TIME THEREAFTER HE REPLACED RCC MEMBER ABU ZEID AS HEAD, NATIONAL SECURITY ORGANIZATION (NSO). FOR UNEXPLAINED REASONS, HE ONLY LASTED SIX MONTHS AND WAS LATER NAMED AMBASSADOR TO SOMALIA. WE HAVE UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT NUR AL-DIN MAY HAVE BEEN AT LEAST PRO-COMMUNIST PRIOR 1969. AS DEPT AWARE, SUDAN COMMUNIST PARTY SPLIT IN 1970-71 OVER ISSUE OF SUPPORT FOR NIMEIRI. SO-CALLED "NATIONAL COMMUNISTS" CONTINUED TO SUPPORT PRESIDENT UNTIL SOME TIME AFTER ATTEMPT BY SO-CALLED "ORTHODOX" COMMUNISTS SEIZE POWER HERE IN MID-1971. ACCORDINGLY, WHILE WE UNCLEAR WHETHER NUR AL-DIN WAS IN FACT COMMUNIST (AND EMBASSY RECORDS HAVE BEEN BURNED AT LEAST TWICE SINCE 1967), FACT HE SUPPORTED NIMEIRI IN MID-1971 IS BY NO MEANS "PROOF OF HIS ANTI-COMMUNISM" AS HE ALLEGED TO AMBASSADOR NEUMANN.
BREWER

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